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Heavy Loading of Freight Cars in the Transportation of Northwestern Apples

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SUMMARY

OWING to a serious car shortage, amounting to over 5,000 refrigerator cars prior to December 15, it was necessary during 1917 to load much heavier than during any previous season and to ship a considerable portion of the Northwestern apple crop in box cars.

Temperatures are maintained about 5° lower in carloads of apples under refrigeration having five layers of boxes than in cars having six layers. The higher temperature shortens the storage and market life of the fruit.

The temperatures of heavy and light loads are nearly the same when shipped under ventilation. When emergency demands heavy loading it should be done during the season of ventilated shipments.

Closing refrigerator car ventilators during the day, or when outside temperatures are high, gives lower and more uniform temperatures than standard ventilation.

More than a third of the box car shipments in 1917 were consigned to markets in Eastern States. Box cars should not be loaded with fruit subject to long-distance shipment.

Careless loading of Western apples during the season of 1917 caused an average breakage of 50 boxes per car in shipments to New York City. More secure car stripping and better bracing are required.

The severity of 1917 shipping troubles was intensified by disregarding indicated conditions. Car supply information and tonnage estimates should be coordinated by the shippers in advance of the shipping season for the best regulation of loading and shipping.

Heavy Loading of Freight Cars in the Transportation of Northwestern Apples

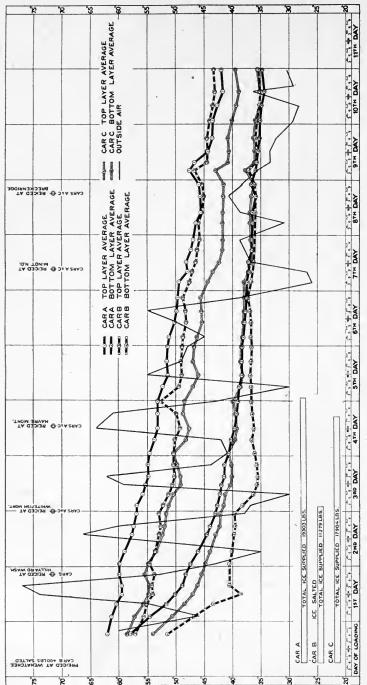
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CONDITIONS IN 1917

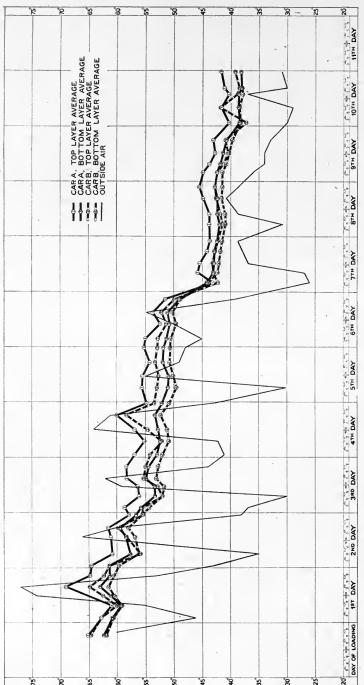
REAT INCREASES in the production of apples in the Northwestern States coupled with critical car shortages seriously handicapped the efforts of the shippers and carriers to transport and market the Northwestern apple crop efficiently during the season of 1917-18. From a production of 14,775 carloads of apples in 1912 in the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana, shipments increased to more than 22,800 carloads for the season 1917-18. Various far-reaching causes resulted in an unprecendented national car shortage. This affected the available supply of refrigerator cars to the extent that during the week of November 9-15, 1917, carriers were able to supply but 423 refrigerator cars at shipping points where the minimum requirements for that week were 1,064 refrigerator cars, each loaded with 756 boxes. While this week marked the most acute stage of the car shortage for the season, its severity existed from October 12 to the end of the calendar year, resulting in the loading of 2,290 box cars in the principal shipping districts during this period. The average load in these box cars was 891.4 boxes. Further than this, the heavier loading of refrigerator cars, brought about by urgent appeals from many sources, resulted in raising their normal load of 630 boxes to an average of 763.1 during the period of heaviest movement (October 5 to December 15). On a basis of 665 boxes as a satisfactory carload, this shows that there was an actual shortage of 4,162 refrigerator cars up to December 15 in handling about half of the crop.

These conditions, anticipated by the Department of Agriculture, demanded that information be secured during the shipping season that would show how heavily refrigerator cars may be loaded for the safe shipment of apples, the best methods for handling such loads, and to what extent box cars may be safely used for this movement.



Car A having a heavy load, 756 packages, standard refrigeration; Car B, 756 packages, refrigeration salted, not re-icod after leaving Spokane; Car C, light load, 630 packages, standard refrigeration. These cars Fig. 1,—Average fruit temperatures in the top and bottom layers in refrigerator cars loaded with boxed apples. were in transit from Wenatchee, Wash., to Chicago, Ill., October 9-19, 1917.

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Fra. 2.—Average fruit temperatures in the top and bottom layers in refrigerator cars loaded with boxed apples shipped under standard ventilation. Car A, heavy load, 756 packages; Car B, light load, 630 packages. These cars were in transit from Wenatchee, Wash., to Chicago, III., October 9-19, 1917.

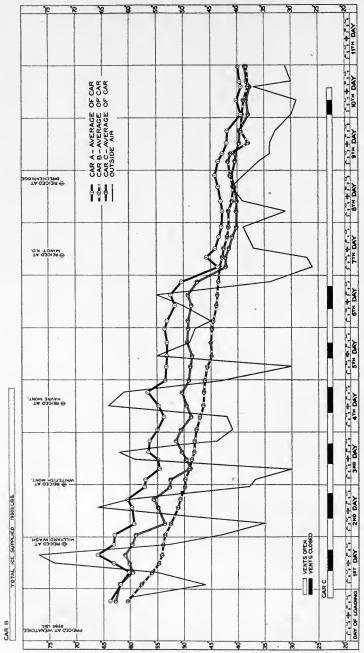
HANDLING HEAVY LOADS UNDER VENTILATION

Under standard ventilation the car ventilators are left open both day and night, unless the outside temperatures become dangerously low, regardless of how warm it becomes during the day. Under controlled ventilation, the ventilators are closed when the outside temperatures become higher than those of the fruit. When shipped under ventilation there is no great difference in temperature between cars heavily loaded and those with normal loads. This is illustrated in figure 2. Under ventilation the range in temperature between the top and bottom layers is less than under refrigeration, but the temperature of the load as a whole is not likely to be as low as when it is shipped under refrigeration unless the ventilated shipment passes through outside temperatures ranging below 40°. This is illustrated in figure 3, wherein comparision is made between the average fruit temperatures in heavy loads under standard refrigeration, standard ventilation and controlled ventilation. Great advantage is found in controlled ventilation over standard ventilation, since lower and more uniform temperatures are maintained where cars have ventilators closed when the outside temperatures are high.

FLUCTUATING TEMPERATURES IN BOX CARS

Temperature records of fruit shipped in box cars offered very conclusive evidence of the unsuitability of this type of equipment for apple shipments from the Northwest. Figure 4 shows the striking fluctuation in fruit temperatures under the influence of the changes in the outside air temperature. This chart also shows how little one or two ply of building paper protects the fruit from outside temperature changes. The box car has no provision for ventilation and offers neither protection from heat during the warm fall weather nor from freezing during a cold period, and is not suitable for long-distance shipments of apples.

Various methods of temporary insulation and heating were provided for box cars by shippers during the latter part of the shipping season. Figure 6 shows three methods of providing temporary insulation. Car B with an inner wall space 6 inches from the car wall filled with shavings gave the best results. The inner wall held the shavings in place, whereas in the car where the shavings were separated from the fruit load by building paper only the shavings settled somewhat and part of the top became uncovered. The eel-grass quilt offered a protection approximating that of the shavings for short periods of cold weather owing to the very efficient manner in which it was applied. These cars were subjected to a temperature of 13° below zero for a few hours with but slight frost damage on the floor.



Fro. 3.—Average fruit temperatures in refrigerator cars loaded with boxed apples six layers ligh, 756 packages. Car A, standard ventilation; Car B, standard refrigeration; Car C, controlled ventilation. These ears were in transit from Wenatchee, Wash., to Chicago, III., October 9-19, 1917.

Various other temporary insulation materials and methods have been used, such as straw in place of shavings, building paper, and a combination of paper sheathing and air spaces. All temporary insulation of box cars is expensive and provides uncertain protection.

In heating box cars the best results are obtained by placing the stove in the center of the car and providing an air passage about the fruit inside the temporary insulation. It is especially important that provision be made at the floor and at the ends of the load for the circulation of the heated air.

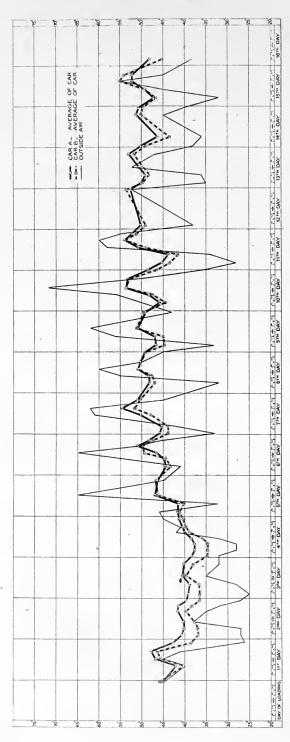
CONDITION UPON MARKET ARRIVAL

Inspections were made during the shipping season in Minneapolis, Chicago, and New York, to determine the effect of heavy loading upon the fruit and upon the condition of the packages when unloaded. The Minneapolis and Chicago inspections indicated no apparent injury to the fruit when loaded six boxes high, but serious shifting and breakage was reported. Of 27 box cars inspected, six were frozen, and one was overripe. Cars loaded through the center without bracing were subject to freezing about the doors. Out of 86 cars inspected, 17 loads had shifted, 10 of them because of poor and insufficient car stripping. Loading on 2" x 4" or 2" x 2" strips resulted in damage, as the boxes tilted or slipped off of the strips.

The New York inspections constitute a more comprehensive test on account of the accumulated effect of the longer period in transit. The average time in transit for the 58 cars from the State of Washington was 24.3 days; six cars from California, 20.8 days; nine cars from Idaho, 19 days; seven cars from Oregon, 20.3 days. Out of 66 refrigerator cars inspected, nine arrived with contents overripe, seven of these cars were loaded six boxes high, with Jonathan, Winter Banana, and Spitzenberg varieties shipped under ventilation late in the scason. Since the temperatures in transit (fig. 2) are very nearly the same in heavy and light loads shipped under ventilation, the overripeness found cannot be attributed to overloading. Nine out of the 14 box cars inspected contained fruit overripe: one had been frozen.

EXCESSIVE BREAKAGE CAUSED BY POOR LOADING METHODS

The additional journey from Chicago to New York resulted in an increased breakage which presents striking evidence in support of the Chicago-Minneapolis report and emphasizes the fact that better methods must be used in carloading, especially with heavy loads and box cars. In the 80 cars inspected, an average of 50 broken boxes per car was found. This breakage was much greater in the heavy loads than in the light loads, and was greater in the box cars than in the refrigerator cars. (See fig. 5.)



ply of paper on sides, ends and top of load; Car B having a 2-inch air space and four ply of paper on the floor with two ply of paper on sides, ends and top of load. These cars were in transit from Wenatchee, Wash., to Pittsburgh, Pa., October 27 to November 12, 1917.

Careless carloading of apples is responsible for the annual breakage of thousands of boxes. Often but a car strip on one end of a box is used on the third and top layers and these are lightly nailed. While broken boxes are coopered at destination and sold, the cost of coopering, the low prices received, and the resulting decay of the apples from bruises aggregate a tremendous annual loss.

Fifty-six of the eighty loads inspected in New York had shifted, 51 because of poor or insufficient stripping, the others because of poor bracing. Shifting as a result of poor stripping is to one side of the car, causing a gap into which the loosened boxes tumble, effecting a jumbled load and broken boxes. Car strips running full length across the car do not possess great advantage over lath used as strips, if the latter are used in sufficient quantity and are well nailed in proper position.

BROKEN BOXES NEW YORK CITY INSPECTIONS

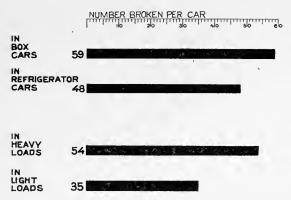


Fig. 5.—Average number of broken boxes found in eighty carloads of apples from the Pacific Coast upon arrival in New York City.

The continual weaving movement of the car in motion has a twisting effect upon the boxes beneath the strips. Several days of this action, combined with vertical vibration, or "jumping," together with sudden end-thrusts, when stopping or shunting, work the nails out of the top strips. With the top layer released, the lower strips also work loose, whereupon the whole load shifts to one side or the other. By tight squeezing and bracing, and by secure stripping, this movement of the boxes may be decreased so that the heavier nails recommended in the top stripping will stay in place sufficiently long to allow delivery of the car without shifting of the load.

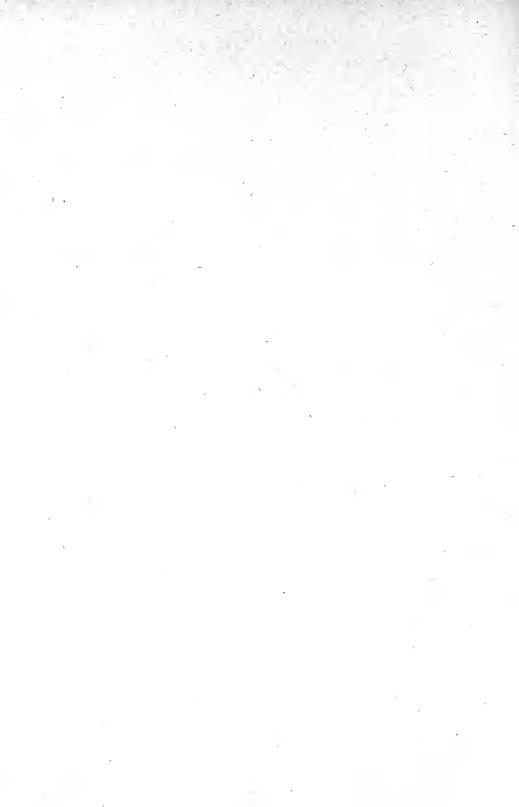




Table 1.—Recapitulation of northwestern carlot shipments of apples.

[August 15 to December 15, 1917.]

	E	AST.	W	EST.	Total.		
WEEK.	Refriger- ator.	Box.	Refriger- ator.	Box.	Refriger- ator.	Box.	
Aug. 15-30:							
Number of cars	1		21		22		
Number of boxes	700		13,443		14,143		
Average load	700		640		642.8		
ept. 1-6:			•				
Number of cars	5	1	10		15	1	
Number of boxes	3,468	630	6,505		9,973	630	
Average load	693.6	630	650.5		664.8	630	
ept. 7–13:		İ					
Number of cars	7		13		20		
Number of boxes	4,593		8,666		13,259		
Average load	656.1		666.6		662.9		
ept. 14-20:							
Number of cars	16		17		33 .	l	
Number of boxes	10,670		11,187		21,857		
Average load	666.9		658		662.3		
ept. 21-27:]					
Number of cars	44	1	61		105	1	
Number of boxes	29,626	630	39,800		69,426	630	
Average load	673.3	630	652.4		661.2	630	
Sept. 28-Oct. 4:		1					
Number of cars	183		198		381		
Number of cars Number of boxes	130,116		133,627		263,743		
Average load	711		674.8		692.2		
Oct. 5-11:							
Number of cars	585	1	517	2	1,102	3	
Number of boxes	404,662	752	347,293	1,321	751,955	2,073	
Average load	691.7	752	671.7	660.5	682.3	691	
Oct. 12–18:	001	.02		000.0	002.0	007	
Number of cars	682	97	639	72	1,321	169	
Number of boxes	498,638	79,730	439,654	59.241	938,292	138,941	
Average lood	731.1	821.6	688	822.7	710.2	822.	
Average load Oct. 19–25:	101.1	021.0	000	022.1	110.2	024.	
	553	196	521	110	1,074	254	
Number of cars	438,062	136	37,461.4	118		222,912	
Number of boxes	792.1	882.8	719.0		812,676 756,6	877.	
Average load	192.1	002.0	719.0	871.5	730.0	011.	
Oct. 26-Nov. 1:	303	1 00	239	222	740	215	
Number of cars	243,043	93 88,903	183,583		542 426,626	283,913	
Number of boxes			768	195,010	787.1		
Average load	802.1	955.9	105	878.4	181.1	901.	
Nov. 2–8:	00.	100	170	200	474	441	
Number of cars	295	133	179	308	474	441	
Number of boxes	247,819	131,054	141,049	279,344	388,868	410,398	
Average load	840.1	985.6	787.9	906.9	820.3	930.	
Nov. 9-15:	0		100	00-	400		
Number of cars	241	190	182	335	423	525	
Number of boxes	200,383	171,346	143,493	289,128	343,876	460,474	
Average load	831.4	901.8	788.4	863.0	812.9	877	
Nov. 16–22:			100	0.00	100	100	
Number of cars	264	147	198	259	462	406	
Number of boxes	223,415	138,139	160,355	222,359	383,770	360,498	
Average load	846.2	939.7	809.8	858.5	830.6	887.	
Nov. 23-29:							
Number of cars	423	42	331	101	754	143	
Number of boxes	335,983	40,426	267,660	91,128	603,643	131,554	
Average load	794.3	962.5	808.6	902.2	800.5	919.	
Nov. 30-Dec. 7:						1	
Number of cars	386	1	294	22	680	23	
Number of boxes	312,403	686	238,477	20,404	550,880	21,090	
Average load	809.3	686	811.1	927.4	810.1	917	
Dec. 8-15:							
Number of cars	244	3	238	6	482	9	
Number of boxes	192,556	2,293	188,001	5,934	380,557	8,227	
Average load	789.1	764.3	789.9	989	789.5	914.	
Total for season:		101.0		0.55			
Total number of cars	4.232	845	3,658	1,445	7.890	2.290	
Total number of boxes		774,631	2,697,407	1,260,513	5,973,544	2,041,340	
	774.1	916.7	737.2	872.3	757.1	891.	
Average load							

 Grand total:
 Total number of cars, August 15 to December 15.
 10,180

 Total number of boxes, August 15 to December 15.
 8,014,884

 Average load in all cars, August 15 to December 15.
 878.3

Table 2.—Wenatchee District, Washington: Summary of carlot shipments of apples from Wenatchee and Northern Columbia shipping points.

[August 15 to December 15, 1917.]

		EAST.			WEST.	Total.		
WEEK.	Refriger- ator.	Ven- tilated.	Box.	Refriger- ator.	Ven- tilated.	Box.	Refriger- ator and ventilated.	Box.
Aug. 15-30:								
Number of cars	1			13	1		15	
Number of boxes	700			8,413	522		9,635	
Average load	700			647	522		642.3	
ept. 1-7: Number of cars	5			4	•		9	
Number of boxes	3,468			2.690			6,158	
Average load	693.6			672.5			684.2	
ept. 7-13:								
Number of cars	6			. 9	2		17	
Number of boxes	3,928			6,097	1,309		11,334	
Average load ept. 14-20:	654.6			677.6	654.5		666.7	
Number of cars -	• 11	2		6	3		22	
Number of boxes	7,149	1,382		3,770	2,180		14,481	
Average load	649.9	691		628.3	726.6		658.2	
Sept. 21-27:								
Number of cars	31	7		18	13		69	
Number of boxes	21,019	4,606		11,223	8,970		45,818	
Average load	678	658		623.5	690		664	
Sept. 28-Oct. 4:	91	39		25	77		232	1.
Number of cars Number of boxes	67,804	27,004		16,608	52,928		164,344	
Average load	745.1	699.3		664.3	687.3		708.5	
Oct 5-11:	110.1	000.0		00110	00.10			
Number of cars.	181	146	1	50	96	2	473	3
Number of boxes	128,503	106,041	752	34,036	69,492	1,321	338,072	2,073
Average load	709.9	726.3	752	680.7	723.8	660.5	714.7	691
Oct. 12-18:	0.5		0.5	0.0	en.	00	704	101
Number of cars	217	171 130,981	95 78.388	63 46,717	83 62,156	*56,811	534 $404,941$	164 135,199
Number of boxes Average load	165,087 760.7	765.8	825.1	741.5	748.8	823.3	758.3	824.
Oct. 19-25:	700.7	105.0	020.1	741.0	140.0	020.0	100.0	024.
Number of cars	156	154	134	37	62	107	409	241
Number of boxes	120,633	119,455	118.350	28,956	49,442	92,973	318,486	211.323
Average load Oct. 26-Nov. 1:	773.3		883.2	782.5	797.4	868.9	766.4	876.
Oct. 26-Nov. 1:							200	
Number of cars	58	112	74	15 12.282	45	95 88,307	230 187,287	169
Number of boxes Average load	47,053 811.2	92,183 823	71,470 965.8	818.8	35,769 794.8		814.3	159,777 945.
Nov. 2-8:	. 011.2	020	905.0	010.0	134.0	320.1	014.0	940.
Number of cars	154	49	100	53	16	105	272	205
Number of boxes	132,734	41,489	102,276	44,066	13,458	99,229	231,747	201,505
Average load	862.9	846.5	1,022.7	831.6	841.1	945	852	982
Nov. 9-15:							101	
Number of cars	92	500	101	41		113	134	214
Number of boxes	81,104 881.5	866 866	93,725 928	34,438 839.9		103,463 915.6	116,408 868.7	197,188 921
Average load Nov. 16-22:	991.9	800	920	009.8		313.0	300.1	921.
Number of cars	128		117	50		82	178	199
Number of cars Number of boxes	112,690		109,992	43,005		73,044	155,695	183,036
Average load	880.4		940.1	860.1		890.8	874.7	919.
Nov. 23-29:						0.0	840	
Number of cars	243		31 30,228	106		32	349	63
Number of boxes	199,579		975	87,119 821.8		27,600 862.5	286,698 821.4	57,828 917
Average load Nov. 30–Dec. 7:	821.3		910	321.0		002.0	021.4	311
Number of cars	230		1	76		8	306	9
Number of cars Number of boxes	188,208		686	61,796		6,387	250,004	7,073
Average load	818.3		686	813.1		798.4	817	785
Dec. 8-15:					}			
Number of cars	89		3	68			157	3
Number of boxes	70,072 787.3		2,293 764.3	55,144 810.9			125,216 797.5	2,293 764
Average load Total for season:	181.3		704.3	810.9			197.8	104
Total number of								
cars	1,693	681	657	634	398	613	3,406	1,270
Total number of	2,000	331	00.					
boxes	1,349,731	524,007	608,160 925.6	496,360 782.9	296,226	549,135	2,666,324	1,157,295
Average load	797.2	769.4			744.2	895.8	782.8	911.

 Grand total:
 4,676

 Total number of cars, August 15 to December 15.
 4,676

 Total number of boxes, August 15 to December 15.
 3,823.819

 Average load in all cars, August 15 to December 15.
 817.7

Table 3.—Yakima District, Washington: Summary of carlot shipments of apples from Yakima Valley shipping points.

[August 15 to December 15, 1917.]

	E	AST.	W	EST.	TOTAL.		
WEEK.	Refriger- ator	Box.	Refriger- ator.	Box.	Refriger- ator.	Box.	
Aug. 15-30;						-	
Number of cars			. 7		7		
Number of boxes			4,508		4,508		
Average load			644		644		
Sept. 1–6:		1 .					
Number of cars		620	6		. 6	1	
Number of boxes Average load		630 630	3,815		3,815	. 630	
Sept. 7–13:		030	635.8		635.8	630	
Number of cars	1		2		. 3		
Number of cars Number of boxes	665		1,260		1,925		
Average load	665		630		641.6		
Sept. 14-20:					011.0		
Number of cars	3		8		. 11	1	
Number of boxes	2,139		5,237		7,376		
Average load	713		654.6		670.5		
Sept. 21-27:							
Number of cars	6	1	30		36	1	
Number of boxes Average load.	4,001 666.8	630	19,607		23,608	630	
Sept. 28-Oct. 4:	000.8	630	653.5		655.7	630	
Number of cars	35		96		191		
Number of boxes	23,519		64.091		131 87.610		
Average load	672		667.6		668.7		
Oet. 5-11;	0.2		001.0		000.7		
Number of cars	211		334		545		
Number of boxes	136,645		218,653		355,298		
Average load	647.6		654.6		651.9		
Oct. 12-18:							
Number of cars	238	2	419	1	657	3	
Number of boxes	157,681	1,312	278,286	756	435,967	2,068	
Average load Oct. 19–25:	662.5	656	664.1	756	663.5	689.3	
Number of cars	179	9	0	_	-01		
Number of boxes	147,025	1,722	355 $246,579$	6,049	534	9	
Average load	821.3	861	736	864.1	393,604	7,771	
Average load Det. 26-Nov. 1:	021.0	301	130	004.1	737	863.4	
Number of cars	84	. 7	141	111	225	118	
Number of boxes	63,310	5,677	104,269	92,336	167,579	98,013	
Average load	753.7	811	739.4	831.8	744.7	830.6	
Nov. 2-8:							
Number of cars Number of boxes	38	16	80	150	118	166	
Number of boxes	28,766	13,898	60,107	132,517	88,873	146,415	
Average load Nov. 9-15:	757	868.6	751.3	883.4	753.1	882	
Number of cars	75	43	90	1	100	10=	
Number of boxes	58,920	34,925	69,761	154	165	150 026	
'verage load.	785.6	812.2	775.1	124,101 805.8	128,681 779.8	159,026 807.7	
. 16-22:	100.0	012.2	113.1	000.0	119.0	001.1	
umber of cars	54	27	95	142	149	169	
imber of boxes	43,583	25,635	76,244 •	119,209	119,827	144,844	
erage load	807	949.4	802.5	839.5	804.2	857	
3-29:						1	
er of cars	110	9	171	52	281	61	
r of boxes	78,846	8,382	136,887	47,670	215,733	56,052	
load	716.7	931.3	800.5	916.7	767.7	918.8	
* 0000	10.		170		000		
earsboxes	105 83,140		$\begin{array}{c c} 178 \\ 145.482 \end{array}$	7.882	283 228.622	$\frac{8}{7.882}$	
1	791.8		817.3	986	807.8	7,882 985.2	
	.51.0		011.3	900	001.0	900.2	
9	45		113	6	158	6	
28	35,493		86,556	5,934	122,049	5,934	
	788.7		765.9	989	772.4	989	
cars	1,184	108	2,125	631	3,309	739	
38	863,733	92,811	1,521,342	536,454	2,385,075	629,265	
	729.5	859.3	715.9	850.1	720.7	851.5	

even though some varieties have qualities that enable them to stand abuse longer than others. It follows that when radically diversified methods are employed with cars moving through identical climatic conditions, some of the fruit is subject to undesirable shipping conditions.

Table 1 shows that heavy loading of refrigerator cars was not universally begun until the week of October 19 to 25, and that the heaviest loading occurred during the week of November 16 to 22, when the average carload was 830.6 boxes. This was five weeks after the heaviest movement under ventilation and well into the

Table 4.—Hood River District, Oregon: Summary of earlot shipments of apples from Hood River shipping points.

August	15 to	December	15,	1917.]	
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	E	AST.	W	EST.	TOTAL.		
WEEK.	Refriger- ator.	Box.	Refriger- ator.	Box.	Refriger- ator.	Box.	
Oct. 15-Oct. 4:							
Number of cars	18				18		
Number of boxes	11,789				11,789		
Average load	654.9				654.9		
Oct. 5-11:		ъ					
Number of cars	23		6	l	29		
Number of boxes	17,260		4,564		21,824		
Average load	750.4		760.6		752.5		
Oct. 12-18:	100.1		100.0		102.0		
Number of cars	50		27		77		
Number of boxes	40,515		19,373		59,888		
Average load	810.3		717.5		777.7		
	010.0		717.0		111.1		
Oct. 19–25:	50		29	1	79	1	
Number of cars							
Number of boxes	41,764		21,697		63,461		
Average load	835.2		748.1		803		
Oct. 26-Nov. 1:	90				10		
Number of cars	30	12	12	3	42	15	
Number of boxes	25,699	11,756	10,092	2,922	35,791	14,678	
Average load	856.6	979.6	841	974	852.1	978.	
Nov. 2-8:							
Number of cars	29	12	5	28	134	40	
Number of boxes	24,704	10,338	4,121	25,181	28,825	35,519	
Average load	851.8	861.5	824.2	899.3	847.7	887.	
Nov. 9–15:							
Number of cars	28	38	11	30	39	68	
Number of boxes	23,887	35,467	8,902	24,527	32,789	59,994	
Average load	853.1	933.3	809.2	817.5	840.7	882	
Nov. 16-22:							
Number of cars	58	2	17	28	75	30	
Number of boxes	47,747	1.704	13,738	24.094	61.485	25.708	
Average load.	823.2	852	808.1	857.2	819.7	856	
Nov. 23-29;	020.2	002	00011	00112	0.011	0.00	
Number of cars	44		10	12	54	12	
Number of boxes	36.373		8,430	10.802	44,803	10,802	
Average load	826.6		843	900	829.6	900	
Nov. 30-Dec. 6:	020.0		010	300	020.0	1	
Number of cars	17		11	3	28	3	
Number of boxes	13,316		8.534	2,863	21.850	2.863	
Average load	783.2		775.8	954.3	780	951	
	100.2		(15.0	994.0	100	991	
Dec. 7-15:	0.0		17	1	107		
Number of cars	90		17		107		
Number of boxes	70,970		13,481		84,451		
Average load	788.5		793		789.2		
Total for season:			* * * *	101	*00	100	
Total number of cars	437	64	145	101	582	168	
Total number of boxes	354,024	59,265	112,932	90,299	466,956	149,564	
Average load	810.1	926	778.8	868.2	802.3	890.	

 season when heating precautions should have been taken. The best treatment of the apples would have been for the heaviest loads to move under ventilation.

Box cars were not extensively used until the week of October 12 to 18 and their greatest use was during the week of November 9 to 15, when 525 were shipped. Out of 10,180 carloads, shipped from the Northwest, 2,290 loads were shipped in box cars, more than 845 of which had destinations in Eastern States.

Comparing the weekly shipments from different districts, a wide variation is found in the weight of the loads in different shipping localities. During the week of October 12 to 18, the average refriger-

Table 5.—Western Oregon District: Summary of carlot shipments of apples from Medford, Grants Pass, Gold Hill, Voorhies, Dallas, and Ashland.

[August 15 to December 15, 1917.]								
	E	AST.	· W	EST	Total.			
WEEK.	Refriger- ator.	Box.	Refriger- ator.	Box.	Refriger- ator.	Box.		
Oct. 5-11:								
Number of cars	9		3		12 *			
Number of boxes	6,582		2,181		8,763			
Average load	731.3		727		730.2			
Oct. 12-18:	2		10	2	12			
Number of cars			7.587	1.674	9.057	1.674		
Average load	$^{1,470}_{-735}$		758.7	837	754.7	837		
Oct. 19-25:	130		190.1	331	7.54.7	001		
Number of cars	3		7	3	10	3		
Number of boxes	2.016		4.946	2,393	6.962	2.393		
Average load	672		706.5	798	696.2	797.6		
Average loadOct. 26-Nov. 1:	0.2				0000			
Number of cars	11	1	7	2	18	2		
Number of boxes	8.267		5.074	1.674	13,341	1,674		
Average load	751.5		725	837	741.1	837		
Nov. 2-8:					-			
Number of cars	7		6	8	13	.8		
Number of boxes	5,327		4,871	6,168	10,198	6,168		
Average load	761		811.8	771	784.4	771		
Nov. 9-15:				_		_		
Number of cars	17		18	5	35	5		
Number of boxes	12,796		13,962	5,175	26,758	5,175		
Average load	752.7		757.6	1,035	764.5	1,035		
Nov. 16-22:			0		1.4			
Number of cars	6		8	2 100	10,990	3,182		
Number of boxes	$\frac{4,905}{817.5}$		6.085 760.6	3,182 795.5	785	795.5		
Average load Nov. 23-29:	017.5		700.0	195.5	100	1 50.0		
Number of cars	19	1	16	2	35	3		
Number of boxes	15,185	808	12.246	1,956	27,431	2,764		
Average load	799.2	300	765.3	978	783.7	921.3		
Nov. 30-Dec. 6:				0.0				
Number of cars	29		9	3	38	3		
Number of boxes	. 23.313		6.333	3.272	29.646	3,272		
Average load	803.8		703.6	1,091	780.1	1,090.6		
Dec. 7-15:								
Number of cars	16		15		31			
Number of boxes	12,997		13,062		26,059			
Average load	812.3		870.8		840.6			
Total for season:					240			
Total number of cars	119	1	99	.29	218	30		
Total number of boxes	92,858	808	76,347	25,494	169,205	26,302		
Average load	789.3		771.1	879.1	776.1	876.7		

 Grand total:
 248

 Total number of cars, August 15 to December 15
 195,507

 Total number of boxes, August 15 to December 15
 195,507

 Average load in all cars, August 15 to December 15
 788.3

ator carloads were as follows: Hood River, 777.7 boxes; Wenatchee, 758.3 boxes; Western Oregon, 754.7 boxes; Eastern Washington, 693.6 boxes, and Yakima, 663.5 boxes. Local storage facilities and competitive fransportation conditions to some extent regulate heavy loading activities in different districts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are based upon the investigations that have been made, as well as upon the results of methods used in commercial practice so far as these have proved efficient and of such practical value as to warrant their wider application.

Table 6.—Eastern District, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho: Summary of carlot shipments of apples from Walla Walla, Lewiston, Milton, Freewater, Mosier, Taggard, and Dufur.

[August 15 to December 15, 1917.]

	E.	AST.	· W	EST.	TOTAL.		
WEEK.	Refriger- ator.	Box.	Refriger- ator.	Box.	Refriger-	Box.	
Oct. 5-11;					,		
Number of cars	15		28		43		
Number of boxes	9.631		18,567		27,998		
Average load	642		656		651.1		
Oct. 12-18:							
Number of cars	4		37		41		
Number of boxes	2.904		25,535		28,439		
Average load	726		690.1		693.6		
Oct. 19-25:							
Number of cars	11		31	1	42	1	
Number of boxes	7.969		22,994	1.425	30,963	1,425	
Average load	724.4		741.7	1,425	737.2	1.425	
Oct. 26-Nov. 1:				, , , , ,		-,	
Number of cars	8	l	19	11	27	11	
Number of boxes	6.531		16.097	9.771	22.628	9,771	
Average load	816.4		847.2	888.2	838	888.2	
Nov. 2-8:							
Number of cars	18	5	19	17	37	22	
Number of boxes	14,799	4.542	14,326	16,249	29,125	20.791	
Average load	821.0	908.4	754	955.8	787.1	945	
Nov. 9-15:	02110	000.1		000.0		0.10	
Number of cars	28	8	22	33	50	41	
Number of boxes	22.810	7,229	16,430	31.862	39,240	39,091	
Average load	814.6	903.6	746.8	965.5	784.8	953.4	
Nov. 16-22:	011.0	000.0	. 10.0	000.0		1	
Number of cars	18	1 1	28	3	46	4	
Number of boxes	14,490	808	21.283	2,920	35.773	3,728	
Average load	805	808	760.1	973.3	777.7	932	
Nov. 23-29:	(304)	003	100.1	310.0		002	
Number of cars	7	1	28	3	35	4	
Number of boxes	6.000	1.008	22.978	3,100	28.978	4.108	
Average load	857.1	1,008	820.6	1.033.3	827.9	1.027	
Nov. 30-Dec. 6;	301.1	1,000	020.0	1,000.0	021.0	1,021	
Number of ears	5		20		25		
Number of boxes	4,426		16.332		20,758		
Average load	885.2		816.6		830.3		
Dec. 7-15:	0043.2		010.0		300.0		
Number of cars	4		25		29		
Number of boxes	3.024		19.758		22,782		
Average load	756		790.3		785.6		
Total tor season:	1.70		100.0		100.0		
Total number of cars	118	15	257	68	375	83	
Total number of boxes	92.584	13,587	194,100	65.327	286,684	78,914	
Average load	784.6	905.8	755.2	960.6	764.5	950.7	
A TELAGO IONG	104.0	505.0	100.2	300.0	101.0	000.1	

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LOADING

The loading of refrigerator cars with apples nearer the ceiling than 18 inches is not recommended as a standard practice.

Early long-distance shipments should move under refrigeration and ordinarily should not be loaded more than five boxes high. These shipments should include the September and early October movement of such varieties as Grimes, Jonathan, Winter Banana, McIntosh, Delicious, and Spitzenberg.

By using 3 to 4 per cent salt with the ice at the time of loading, such carloads may be increased, under emergency demands, to six layers, but in no case should salt be used unless properly constructed floor racks are provided and the fruit next to the ice bunker is protected from freezing by an insulated bulkhead or temporary insulating material so placed as to provide ample openings at the floor and ceiling to permit free air circulation to and from the ice bunker.

· When emergency necessitates increased loading, ventilated shipments, rather than those moving under refrigeration or heat, should be loaded heavily.

STRIPPING AND BRACING

The following rules should be put into effect at every loading platform:

- (1) Inspect bunker bulkheads and insure rigidity before loading, by bracing those likely to work loose.
 - (2) Clean out the cars beneath the floor racks before loading.
- (3) Use floor racks having not less than 4-inch supports running lengthwise of the car. Do not load boxes on temporary strips, as they are of no importance in applying heat and often tilt or allow the boxes to slip off, resulting in a jumbled load and breakage.
- (4) Place boxes an even distance apart, keep them in even stacks across the car, and have each box shoved firmly back to prevent slack.
- (5) Use two car strips per box on the second, fourth, and top layers of boxes in each stack. Have each strip extend to the walls of the car. Use No. 6 cement-coated nails in the top strips, two nails per box in each strip. On lower strips use at least one nail per box in each strip.
- (6) When loading the doorway full, squeeze the load well with a car squeeze before placing the final stack of fruit, and take up all slack with dunnage. Allow sufficient space above the load in the doorway for the entrance of inspectors.
- (7) Brace tightly with good lumber, using construction with strength equivalent to that shown in figure 8.

Controlled ventilation maintains lower and more even fruit temperatures than standard ventilation. (See fig. 3.) It is recommended that ventilation practices be established that will effect the prompt opening and closing of ventilators by competent employees, in order that full advantage may be taken of favorable outside temperatures for maintaining desirable and uniform fruit temperatures. Until adequate service in this respect is established by the carriers it is believed desirable that the shippers extend the messenger service that they have provided for protection against freezing for the purpose of regulating ventilation of cars in transit.

CAR BRACING

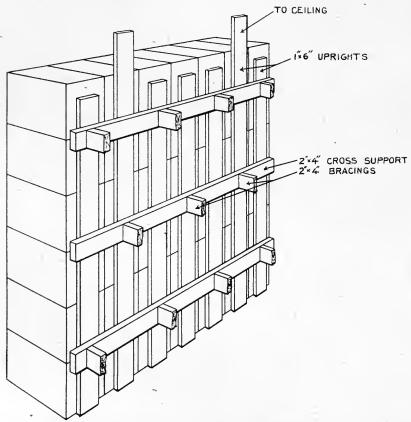


Fig. 8.—Diagram showing required strength and proper construction of car bracing for carloads of boxed apples. The load should be kept tight when placing boxes and should be well squeezed with bracings made of sound lumber.



THE USE OF BOX CARS IN EMERGENCIES

Box cars are not suitable for long-distance fruit shipments, and their use for transporting perishable food products should be restricted, in so far as practicable, to short-haul shipments.

Tables 1 to 6 and the diagram in figure 7 show that during 1917 the supply of cars at hand in the Northwest was not used to the best advantage. Heavy loading was not practiced extensively until the car shortage was actually felt. Instead of loading cars heaviest when shipments were moving under ventilation, this was not done until several weeks after the normal season for ventilated shipments. Box cars were not utilized until the supply of refrigerator cars was practically exhausted, with their greatest use coming after favorable weather conditions were past. They were then used indiscriminately for all shipments, whether consigned to markets in adjoining States, or to those on the Atlantic seaboard.

It is recommended that shippers and carriers, through their representatives, meet periodically to compare the tonnage to be moved with the apparent car supply. When conditions apprehend the necessity for heavy loading or for the use of unsuitable equipment, such as box cars, as was the case in 1917, it would then be possible to effect heavy loading when shipping under ventilation rather than wait for the shortage to be actually visible, and box cars would be utilized over the entire season, but only for such fruit as ordinarily reaches a nearby market. The best regulation of loading and shipping cannot be made effective if the carriers and shippers work independently.

